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Section VI.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

The second Young Men's Christian Association in America was organized in Alexandria in 1853. This was also one of the first to be organized in the world. The first effort, however, was not permanent and several other efforts to establish the Association in the city failed.

The present Association was organized early in 1920 and has been operated on the community basis for the past two years. C. C. Lamond, a prominent manufacturer of the city, has been president ever since the organization and under his wise leadership the Association has easily taken first place among religious organizations of the city.

The board of directors is composed of the leading laymen of the churches of Alexandria and the entire effort of its various committees is toward the unbuilding of the religious life of the city, particularly at it relates to men and boys. The Association being a community one, a great deal of work is also being done for women and girls through the Ladies Auxiliary.

Mr. Wallace discovered at once upon taking up his work in Alexandria the great need of boy's work in the

city and early began the organization of Pioneer troops in the Sunday schools of the several churches. Seven troops have been organized and most of them have carried on a splendid program of activities both winter and summer. The most outstanding feature of the boys' work was the summer camp conducted for the Pioneers last summer on Goose Creek near Leesburg. The camp was known as Camp Rust and thirty boys enjoyed life under canvas for ten days.

A great deal of social work has been undertaken, although many handicaps have been experienced in the way of a permanent place in which to develop this phase of the work. The Association, however, has quietly served in a social way many agencies that have contributed to the wholesome community social life.

The "Y" secretary also discovered that no physical program of any kind was being carried on in the city by any of the many agencies under whom it might have been expected. Athletics were being developed to a splendid degree and these avenues of service were assisted in every way. As a result of the enthusiasm engendered during the past two years, many regular classes of physical education are now meeting in the city for men, women and boys and girls.

The religious work of the Association has been largely that of assisting existing agencies in the development of their own programs and personal work of inestimable value. Men's meetings have been held and a religious message carried to the men of the shops and factories. Sunday

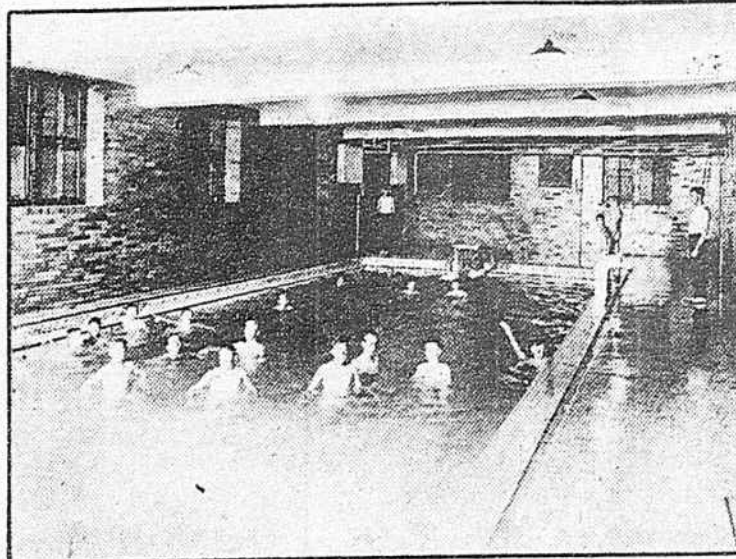
school attendance has been increased phenomenally and the Pioneer program for boys is known as "The Christian Citizenship Training Program," the Christian emphasis being always in the ascendancy in dealing with the youngsters.

The Association has not been unmindful of its economic responsibility and National Thrift Week has been observed the past two years in schools, shops and factories, and wherever the message could secure a prospective listener. As a result of this movement family budgets have been established in many homes, saving accounts adopted by many of the boys and at least one thrift club established in one of the department stores of the city.

Now it must be apparent to the most casual reader, even after such a brief and unsatisfactory recital of the Association's activities of the past two years, that the Alexandria Young Men's Christian Association is entitled to a home of its own. This the board of directors decided some time



(Sec. Kirk E. Wallace)



(Swimming Pool Interior)

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SOCIAL ADVANTAGES OF ALEXANDRIA

(By A. R. D.)

To the pleasure seeker Alexandria offers almost unrivaled advantages. Washington, with its hundreds of amusements, is only six miles away, and looking at any Washington theater may be made by phone with the same ease as a local call. Both theaters and moving picture houses advertise in the Alexandria Gazette and it is a matter of but a moment to select a play and reserve seats in one's favorite theater.

The theater and moving picture districts of the Capital are within a few squares of the Washington-Virginia Railway terminal, at Twelfth street and Pennsylvania avenue, so that it is necessary to allow not more than 45 minutes' time from home to one's seat in the theater—a much more satisfactory schedule than that required for residents of up-town Washington.

The trip by motor can be made even more quickly, over excellent roads and through attractive country. It is a fitting end to a pleasant evening to turn homeward across the long bridge into the quiet of the Virginia countryside, watching the road unfold before the searchlight, and looking down on the myriad twinkling lights of Potomac and Alexandria. The ride may be broken by a stop at one of the attractive tea houses along the way, where it is possible to find fried chicken and waffles or a salad and coffee, and to dance for awhile before starting home.

But the chief advantages of Alexandria lie within its own borders; in the social life of many phases which appeal to all ages. Perhaps the social activity which manifests itself in a series of lectures, musicals and study classes is more characteristic of Alexandria of the old regime than the gayer life of the younger set. With the advantages of travel, study and personal association with well known men and women, an ever widening circle of the city's best minds exerts a cultural influence felt beyond the confines of the State. Availing themselves of the advantages of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, and bringing the best thoughts of best minds and talent from those sources, it is in the informal gatherings of friends in the old homes of the city, where conversation flashes across the tea cups, that the real intellectual life of Alexandria may be seen.

There is an atmosphere of cordiality toward the newcomer in Alexandria that is lacking in many Southern cities; a willingness to assimilate new ideas; a kindly hospitality. A city so rich in tradition can afford to be lavish in its friendships, because it draws from an inexhaustible store of true kindness, a heritage from great forefathers.

The re-organized German Club, the Old Dominion Boat Club, dances of a more informal character, and numerous subscription dances fill up the calendar for the younger set, and added to club and subscription card parties make an active winter's program for the native Alexandrians, as well as the newer citizens who may lack personal introduction in the town.

The women's clubs of Alexandria cover a wide range of activities, from the purely social to patriotic and philanthropic, and constitute a clearing house for and a common meeting ground for women of all ages. Probably in no other city in the United States are the questions of the day, the most modern topics of suffrage and first settlement, discussed in the same homes where have been entertained the great political leaders of Colonial and Revolutionary days.

Although Alexandria has no theater of its own, a group of talented amateurs stages and presents one or more light operas or musical comedies which equal in excellence any professional production. Various dramatic clubs present more or less serious plays, and the teachers of music and elocution in the city offer dramatic readings and musical events of unusual interest.

Alexandria's moving picture houses rank with the best of Washington and Baltimore, and the most modern films are presented in local houses simultaneously with the larger cities. The moving picture houses are large and attractively appointed, and with a daily change of bill make it possible for Alexandrians to keep abreast of the productions of the film world without leaving their home town for amusement.

The religious advantages of the city can not be discussed in this article, but the churches of all denominations have an active social life which is attractive alike to newcomer and established resident, and make for friendliness and true community spirit.

The "sugar ash" of Sicily contains a sap that hardens into crude sugar which the natives use without refining.

Mahogany trees do not grow in clusters but are found scattered throughout forests and hidden in dense undergrowth.

The olive lives longer than any other fruit tree. In Syria they have been known to have borne abundant crops for four centuries.

Dwarf oaks, which will take root in a thimbleful of soil and grow only an inch and a half in height, are plentiful in China.

ago and their judgement was concurred in by a splendid gathering of representative citizens called some time ago to discuss the matter.

It was decided that at least \$75,000 would be required to establish the Association on a permanent basis. This amount was made the objective of a campaign to be staged early in May of this year. The board of directors has asked Capt. C. Keith Carlin, a prominent attorney of Alexandria and Washington, to be the general chairman of campaign committee, which will consist of over one hundred men. Capt. Carlin has accepted the chairmanship and is now building up the organization that will have the responsibility and also the delightful task of putting Alexandria in front ranks of Association cities.

The plan of the board, with the approval of the city, is to build a Y. M. C. A. complete. The building will be a community one and will be designed to serve the whole community in every possible way. The exterior of the building will be necessarily controlled

by the selection of the lot on which it is to be erected, but the accompanying cut illustrates a typical community "Y".

The building will contain two of the most needed of all of Alexandria's great needs—a gymnasium and swimming pool. The gymnasium will be of standard size, thoroughly equipped with a gallery for a running track which can also be used for spectators when games are being played on the main floor.

In one end of the gymnasium will be a splendid stage with commodious dressing rooms and the "gym" will doubtless become a most popular place for larger gatherings of the city. It will be the intention of the physical department to keep the gymnasium busy with classes of all ages and the entire physical life of the community should respond to the splendid equipment proposed.

Probably the most popular place in the entire building will be the natatorium or swimming pool which will serve the entire community twelve months of the year with filtered and sterilized water. Here the small boy can learn to swim in safety while his sister can have the same privilege. His dad can cool off in the hot summer and keep fit during the restricted winter season. Both winter and summer aquatics will be developed and it will be the business of the "Y" to

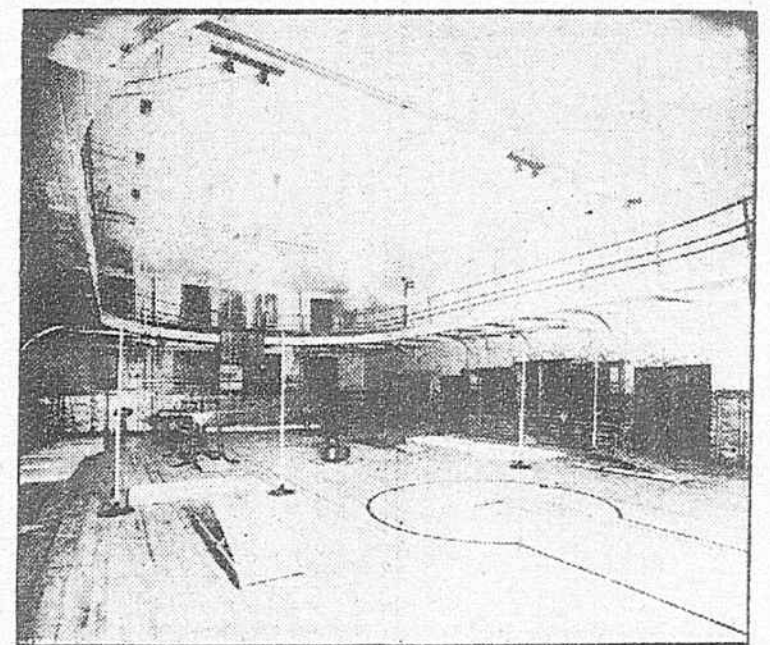
teach every Alexandrian to swim, who desires to learn.

The size of the pool has not been definitely determined but it is said that it will contain at least eighty thousand gallons of water. It will be heated to a standard degree of heat and the water will constantly pass through the latest and best swimming pool filters, thus insuring a perfectly pure supply of water at all times.

The rest of the building will be given over to offices, lobby, game rooms and rooms that can be used for education and club purposes. It is planned to have these rooms so arranged that several of them can be opened into each other for larger gatherings or banquets which would not necessitate a room so large as the gymnasium.

The question of dormitories has not yet been decided, but it is assured that the building committee will go in to every detail so thoroughly that the community will be delighted with the "finished product." Secretary Wallace has within the last few days visited the New York offices of the International Committee and was given every assurance that the Building Bureau would cooperate in every way to assist in making the Alexandria building the last word in "Y" construction.

Kirk E. Wallace.



(Interior Gymnasium Scene)

ALEXANDRIA COMMONS— MARKET SQUARE

This square was a "Commons" and for years had only three small buildings, the Court House, the old Jail, and the "Assembly Hall." It probably is as historic as the "Boston Commons." Here it was the Virginia troops were mustered into service and trained for the great campaigns in North America when England and France were in a death grapple for the supremacy of a continent. (Washington was sent by Governor Dinwiddie to warn the French against encroachment upon the English in the Ohio Valley, and because they did not heed they lost a Continent.)

Washington, as envoy, on the first trip selected a place for a fort at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, which French engineers subsequently chose for the site of Fort Duquesne. At the behest of Dinwiddie he set out a second time for the new fort on the Ohio with about 150 men. It ought not to be forgotten that Dinwiddie raised the troops for the expedition by proclaiming a bounty of 200,000 acres of land about the fort, to be divided among the officers and soldiers. Washington wrote this word to Lord Fairfax: "I had no view of acquisition but that of honor, by faithfully serving my King and country." On this expedition he engaged in the fight at Green Meadows (in the center of which was the Commons) from which he was forced to retire because of superior numbers, but with honors of war. Washington wrote to his brother Lawrence (who was a British officer in England's previous contest with Spanish world aspirations): "I have been on the losing side since I entered the service, which is two years." His failures were to become stepping stones to great success.

Washington had been in intimate touch with these military preparations ever since he was Adjutant General of the Virginia forces in training against the Indians. On these "Commons" Washington, while Braddock was making preparations, trained the "Virginia Rangers" for that disastrous campaign.

Meanwhile a historic incident occurred in an exciting political contest between Mr. Fairfax and Mr. Elzey for the House of Burgesses. The young surveyor could not forget ties of blood and friendship with his patrons, the Fairfaxs. Washington, with possibly too much zeal, and Payne supported Elzey. High words passed between Washington and Payne. Payne, by a heavy blow, brought Washington to earth. Troops rushed out from the barracks and would have made short work of Payne had not Washington pacified them. Every body felt that a duel was imminent. Next morning Washington sent for Payne and said to him: "Mr. Payne, terror is human; I was wrong yesterday, but if you have had sufficient satisfaction let us be friends." Weems says that Washington became Payne's ideal of manhood, and certainly his

son was pall bearer at Washington's funeral.

Out of twenty men from Alexandria in Braddock's expedition only four returned to tell the story. Three months after Braddock's departure a courier came riding into Market Square and announced to the hastily gathered crowd the news of Braddock's defeat and death, and that many Alexandria boys had fallen. Affection was manifested for Washington and his Colonial troops as the crowd learned how they had saved the day. The former respect in which the British "regular" was held was then turned into indignation and contempt, because they had acted (as Washington afterwards, described it) "like sheep pursued by dogs and it was impossible to rally them." Three British regulars, ever afterwards, were counted in Alexandria as about equal to one Colonial soldier. Among the men of Alexandria who returned to be mustered out, probably in Market square were John Carlyle and Dr. James Craik.

Washington was honored as a "Blue" when he was made Commander-in-Chief of the Colonial Forces, and wrote them not to relax discipline, on June 20, 1775. In 1776 when Lord Dunmore, the treacherous Colonial Governor, was ravaging the Potomac, three British war vessels came within a few miles of the town and the townsmen mustered for defense on Market Square. Colonel Fitzgerald, who was probably left in charge by Washington, hastened with the "Blues" from the Square to a small stone fort nearby manned with guns left by Braddock. The flag was to be kept flying from Market Square and a militia officer was left in command by Fitzgerald. Meanwhile a solid shot was fired at the flag and the officer in charge struck the colors. Fitzgerald returned the fire from the fort, which was located at Jones' small stone bastion, armed with guns left behind by Braddock. Most of the great stones now at the end of Jones' Point are the remains of that fort. This fort was the first attempt of the government to guard the river approaches to Alexandria, and was dismantled in 1798 when Fort Washington was constructed because of the anticipated war with our former ally, France.

The vessels of the enemy sailed down the Potomac, Fitzgerald, learning what the officer had done, indignantly returned to the Square and gave him a sound thrashing. Fitzgerald was said to have been specially attached to the young Colonel, having been seen at times weeping for fear when Washington was in great danger. He is said to have been the creator of Washington's Life Guard.

"Romance of Historic Alexandria."